

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for releasing tablets from a blister pack having a plurality of tablets contained in corresponding blisters, the apparatus comprising abutment means, receiving means for receiving a blister pack with any selected one of a plurality of blisters of the pack in registry with the abutment means, the receiving means comprising a pair of opposed jaws, the jaws being moveable relative to one another, either one of the abutment means or the receiving means being moveable to cause a collapsing force to be exerted on a selected blister thereby to release a tablet from the blister, wherein the apparatus includes first biasing means integrally formed with a jaw for urging the receiving means into engagement with the blister pack, and the receiving means is so arranged that said engagement releasably retains, and locates, the blister pack in position relative to the abutment means prior to the release of the tablet, and wherein the first biasing means comprises a resiliently flexible substantially u-shaped connecting arm that is operable to bias the jaws into a neutral position, in which they are spaced apart and opposed so as to be able to receive a blister pack, allowing a user to move the opposed jaws against the action of the first biasing means by inserting a blister pack into the space between the jaws, wherein the abutment means comprises a plunger moveably mounted on a jaw of the receiving means, and wherein the apparatus includes a further biasing means which acts between the plunger and the jaw in which it is mounted so as to urge the plunger away from the other jaw, the further biasing means comprising a resiliently compressible sleeve which extends around the plunger.

2. (original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the abutment means is moveable towards a blister of a pack retained in the receiving means.

3. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the receiving means is arranged to receive a blister pack so that the selected blister faces the abutment means, the latter being operable to exert said collapsing force by directly engaging the blister.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the jaws is so shaped as to locate a selected blister in registry with the abutment means, and has a recess of a complimentary shape to that of a blister.

6-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim [[11]] 1, wherein the further biasing means is arranged to exert a sufficient biasing force on the plunger so as to make it difficult for a small child to use the device to obtain a tablet.

13-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a base for supporting the jaws on a supporting surface, the base including an opening and a chute for ~~conducting~~ conveying a tablet released from a blister pack to the opening.

16. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plunger has a head, to be pressed by the user, which is considerably larger than a blister.

17. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the jaws of the receiving means includes a camming surface for engagement by a blister on lateral movement, to move the jaws apart against the first biasing means.

18. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 in which said u-shaped connecting arm is resiliently flexible in the region of the curved portion thereof.

19. (currently amended) Apparatus for releasing tablets from a blister pack having a plurality of tablets contained in corresponding blisters, the apparatus comprising

abutment means, receiving means for receiving a blister pack with any selected one of a plurality of blisters of the pack in registry with the abutment means, the receiving means comprising a pair of opposed jaws, the jaws being moveable relative to one another, either one of the abutment means and the receiving means being moveable to cause a collapsing force to be exerted on a selected blister thereby to release a tablet from the blister, wherein the apparatus includes first biasing means for urging the receiving means into engagement with the blister pack, and the receiving means is so arranged that said engagement releasably retains, and locates, the blister pack in position relative to the abutment means prior to the release of the tablet, and wherein the first biasing means is operable to bias the jaws into a neutral position, in which they are spaced apart and opposed so as to be able to receive a blister pack, wherein the abutment means comprises a plunger moveably mounted on a jaw of the receiving means, and wherein the apparatus includes a further biasing means which acts between the plunger and the jaw in which it is mounted so as to urge the plunger away from the other jaw, the further biasing means comprising a resiliently compressible sleeve which extends around the plunger.

20. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the abutment means is moveable towards a blister of a pack retained in the receiving means.

21. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the receiving means is arranged to receive a blister pack so that the selected blister faces the abutment means, the latter being operable to exert said collapsing force by directly engaging the blister.

22. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein one of the jaws is so shaped as to locate a selected blister in registry with the abutment means, and has a recess of a complimentary shape to that of a blister.

23. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the first biasing means is integrally formed with a jaw.

24. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the first biasing means comprises a resiliently flexible connecting arm.

25. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the connecting arm is substantially u-shaped.

26. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the further biasing means is arranged to exert a sufficient biasing force on the plunger so as to make it difficult for a small child to use the device to obtain a tablet.

27. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the apparatus includes a base for supporting the jaws on a supporting surface, the base including an opening and a chute for ~~conducting~~ conveying a tablet released from a blister pack to the opening.

28. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the plunger has a head, to be pressed by the user, which is considerably larger than a blister.

29. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 19, wherein one of the jaws of the receiving means includes a camming surface for engagement by a blister on lateral movement, to move the jaws apart against the first biasing means.

30. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 19 in which said u-shaped connecting arm is resiliently flexible in the region of the curved portion thereof.